

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Crime Lab Request for a Latent Print Examiner

Background

The Latent Print Section of the crime laboratory in Missoula:

- processes latent prints, footwear, tire track and other impression evidence for law enforcement.
- assists law enforcement with crime scene processing and reconstruction and
- trains law enforcement officers in the collection, processing, preservation and submission of evidence.

Workload

The workload in this section has led to a backlog of about a year. The current backlog, for example, is about 180 cases. One examiner can process approximately 17 or 18 cases a month, although large cases can take much more time. These delays can affect the integrity of the prints, as some deteriorate in prolonged storage. Lengthy turnaround times may also result in dismissals, as courts deal with "speedy trial" concerns.

Expenditure and Funding Summary

	FY 08	FY09
FTE	1.0	1.0
Personal Services	\$65,239	\$65,239
Operating Expenses	<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,500</u>
Total General Fund	\$68,739	\$68,739